

**EdBlast! — All  
Number 86  
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### **Message from the State Superintendent of Education**

Two outstanding administrators have been recognized by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Janie B. Langley, of Macedonia Middle School in Berkeley County and Elizabeth P. Williams at Hand Middle School in Richland School District One, have been named Middle School Principal of the Year and Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year, respectively.

Langley is the MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Principal of the Year and the National Association Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Distinguished Principal. She has served as an administrator for twenty-two years. Under her leadership, Macedonia Middle School was named a Red Carpet School. She has served as Treasurer of the South Carolina Middle School Association, member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and National Middle School Association, as well as president of the Berkeley County Association of School Administrators.

Elizabeth P. Williams serves as assistant principal at Hand Middle School, Richland School District One. A sixteen-year education veteran, she has been in her current position for the past eight years. She works closely with teachers and students to seek new and innovative ways to promote student achievement. A member of her school's Renaissance Team, she also promotes the integration of the arts throughout her school and community.

These outstanding leaders reflect the talent and commitment of South Carolina's public school leaders. The State Department of Education joins SCASA in applauding their accomplishments.

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### **Five nominated for National Blue Ribbon School Awards**

The State Department of Education has nominated five South Carolina schools to compete in the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. For more information, go to:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=713>

### **January is School Board Recognition month**

January is School Board Recognition Month. The observance focuses attention on the vital role these elected or appointed public officials play in the education of our children. This year's theme is "School Boards: Leading Voices for South Carolina Public Schools." For recognition ideas, contact Debbie Elmore ([delmore@scsba.org](mailto:delmore@scsba.org)) at 800-326-3679.

### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funds available**

Federal funding is now available through the 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program to help with implementation of measures designed to reduce the negative impacts of natural hazards on local communities. School districts are among those eligible to apply. For more information, contact Thomas F. Queen ([tqueen@emd.state.sc.us](mailto:tqueen@emd.state.sc.us)) at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (803-737-8500) or visit these sites:

[http://search.fema.gov/search?q=Pre+disaster+mitigation+program&btnG=+Go+&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&output=xml\\_no\\_dtd&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&client=fema&proxystylesheet=fema&site=fema](http://search.fema.gov/search?q=Pre+disaster+mitigation+program&btnG=+Go+&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&output=xml_no_dtd&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&client=fema&proxystylesheet=fema&site=fema)

[http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/fy07\\_changes.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/fy07_changes.shtm)

### **Safety information surrounding rail crossings available**

Many children will read and view the story of "The Polar Express" this holiday season. The story is about a fantasy train, and many of the scenes in the movie show behavior that would be unsafe around real railroad property and trains. Operation Lifesaver, a

national safety organization, has safety information and classroom lessons that integrate math, science, and language arts. For access to teacher resources, visit:

<http://www.oli.org/>

### **State Higher Education Commission adopts new requirements**

The Commission on Higher Education has adopted new college prerequisite course requirements that will be effective for freshmen entering four-year colleges in 2011 and beyond. The main changes include an additional unit in math (from 3 to 4), a unit in the fine arts, and only one elective unit (instead of four). The requirements can be viewed at:

[http://www.che.sc.gov/New\\_Web/GoingToCollege/CollPrepPrereq.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoingToCollege/CollPrepPrereq.htm)

### **State Department sponsors crisis management workshop**

Dr. Mark Lerner, chairman of the National Center for Crisis Management and president of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, will present a workshop entitled "Managing School-Based Crises" on January 18, 2007, at the South Carolina Department of History and Archives. Lerner is a clinical and school psychologist, author, speaker, and traumatic stress consultant. Registration, which includes a copy of "A Practical Guide for Crisis Response in Our Schools," is \$50. For an additional fee, participants may take the examination for board certification in school crisis response. Recertification credit is also available. Contact Sally Barefoot ([sbarefoot@ed.sc.gov](mailto:sbarefoot@ed.sc.gov)) at 803-734-8304 for more information.

### **Object of History is teacher resource**

Each month The Object of History features an artifact from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History's collections related to a major topic in U.S. history. The site includes curriculum materials and opportunities for students to participate in live online forums with Smithsonian curators and historians. Teacher materials include lesson plans and other resources to support instruction. For more information, e-mail [teachers@objectofhistory.org](mailto:teachers@objectofhistory.org) or visit:

<http://objectofhistory.org/>

### **S.C. students still have time to enter writing contest**

South Carolina students can test their creative skills with two upcoming contests sponsored by the South Carolina Center for the Book. Applications are being accepted until December 8 for the national Letters About Literature competition. To enter, participants write a letter to an author, past or present, describing how that author's work made an impact. For more information, contact Jane Connor at 803-734-8658 or visit:

<http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>

<http://www.sccenterforthebook.org/>

### **International poetry and art contest open**

River of Words, an international poetry and art contest focusing on watersheds, is open to students ages 5 to 19. The competition is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place in which they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover. The deadline for entries for River of Words is Feb. 15. Students may enter on their own or as part of a group. For more information, visit:

<http://www.riverofwords.org/>

<http://www.sccenterforthebook.org/>

### **Passports requirements extended**

Students, teachers, and chaperones traveling by air will be required to carry a valid U.S. passport to reenter the United States starting January. 8, 2007, according to a new regulation issued by the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State. The plan, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), adds Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to locations requiring a passport or selected other documents. Information about obtaining passports can be found by calling the National Passport Information Center at 877-487-2778 or by visiting:

<http://www.state.gov>

### **Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award accepting applications**

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award rewards excellence in the development and delivery of technology programs in the classroom with students or in the professional development of teachers. Educators in grades K-12 and district-level personnel are eligible to apply. The deadline is January 31, 2007. For more information, go to:

[http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

### **Michelin Convention offers students opportunity**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Michelin North America 2007 Invention Convention is an opportunity for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The event will be held February 5-6, 2007, at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville. The object of the convention is to challenge the imagination, innovation, and creativity of students in the development of solutions to everyday issues. The deadline for registrations is January 28. For additional information, contact Katie Joner ( [KatieJoner@clearchannel.com](mailto:KatieJoner@clearchannel.com)) at 864-271-5150.

### **Roper Mountain Science Center sponsors P.L.U.S. Institute**

Roper Mountain Science Center is again sponsoring the Science P.L.U.S. Institute for the state's public school science teachers. In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the institute helps to promote hands-on, standards-based science instruction in grades 1-8. Each participant receives science classroom materials worth at least \$500. For more information, call 864-355-8920, or visit:

<http://ropermountain.org>

### **Donate Life South Carolina sponsors poster contest**

The Paula Moore Dillingham Memorial Poster Contest promotes organ and tissue donation in South Carolina. Sponsored by Donate Life South Carolina for elementary, middle, and high school students, the contest offers students and teachers a positive experience along with raising awareness about this issue. The deadline is March 2, 2007. For more information about the contest, including entry rules, call 877-277-4866, e-mail [smcadams@donatelifesc.org](mailto:smcadams@donatelifesc.org), or visit:

<http://donatelifesc.org>

### **School librarians association seeks nominations**

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Awards include Administrator of the Year, Media Specialist of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Nancy Jane Day Scholarship, and the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship. The deadline for submissions is December 1. To download the award packet, visit:

<http://www.scasl.net/awards.htm>

### **Courtyard by Marriott sponsors teacher appreciation packages**

Courtyard by Marriott is saying thank you this holiday season by offering special discount packages to teachers, administrators, and school support staff. For more information, call 843-445-6333 or use corporate code TCH at:

<http://www.marriott.com/myrcv>

### **University of Iowa offers special graduate assistantships**

The College of Education at the University of Iowa has special assistantships in education available to persons wanting to pursue graduate degrees in several fields of study. The stipends are \$16,730. The deadline is March 2, 2007. For more information,

write: Chair, SGA Selection Committee, University of Iowa, 340 Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA 52242-1529.

### **Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs**

The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs in creative writing, drama, music, and visual arts. Offerings range from intensive two-week programs for rising ninth graders and tenth graders to a summer dance program and teacher institutes. For more information, e-mail [admissions@scgsah.state.sc.us](mailto:admissions@scgsah.state.sc.us) or visit:

<http://www.scgsah.state.sc.us/index.php>

### **South Carolina Assistive Technology Expo 2007 set**

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Expo 2007 will be held Thursday, March 29, 2007, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. This event will include exhibits and workshops about the latest assistive technology for people with disabilities and age-related limitations. It is free and open to the public, and no pre-registration is necessary. To make suggestions and for more information, contact Mary Alice Bechtler ([maryab@cdd.sc.edu](mailto:maryab@cdd.sc.edu)) or Janet Jendron ([jjendron@usit.net](mailto:jjendron@usit.net)) or visit:

<http://www.sc.edu/scatp/atexpo07.html>

### **Charleston County councilman is November's calendar feature**

Frank Washington was one of the State Department of Education's first African-American administrators. It was through that position that Washington witnessed the wide-spread inequity in the South Carolina's public education system. To read more about this trailblazer, go to:

<http://scafam-hist.org/currenthonoree.asp?month=12&year=2006>

### **This issue's quotation**

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult." — Seneca, Roman philosopher and statesman

### **EdBlast! welcomes submissions**

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to [jfairnot@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfairnot@ed.sc.gov) or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

### **Spread the word about EdBlast!**

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!